
The DX Bulletin

Issue 70 December 29, 1980

HOT NEWS? CALL THE DX BULLETIN: 203-871-6251; LEAVE A MESSAGE!

PROPAGATION FORECAST: Dec. 26, High Normal; Dec. 27, 28, High/Low Normal; Dec. 29, High Normal; Dec. 30, High/Low Normal; Dec. 31, Jan. 1-3, High Normal.- N4XX.

HEARD ISLAND

Jim Smith, VK9NS (ex-P29JS) continues work on an expedition to Heard Island sometime in 1981. This effort has been going since last spring, while Jim has additionally been occupied in relocating to Norfolk Island.

Original estimates of trip costs were in the \$100,000 range, and Smith has pressed in several directions in an attempt to reduce the figure. At this time an alternate source of transportation has been found at less cost, but the details to be hammered out will make a January expedition (the original time hoped for) impossible. It is hoped that things will come together by the end of January or first of February.

Last April TDXB published the first of Smith's letters on the subject. Response has been low, with at last count 154 donations received. All donations over two dollars have been acknowledged with a receipt. Thus far, Smith advises that none of the DX foundations have committed any funds to the venture. He reiterates that if the expedition is not undertaken, all monies will be returned.

As far as VK9NS is concerned, he has considerable money himself invested already, and there has been no cancellation of the venture at this point. Donations may be sent to:

Jim Smith, VK9NS
Heard Island DX Association
PO BOX 103
Norfolk Island
Australia 2899

IRAQ

DXers' interest in Iraq still runs high and the proposed YI1JY operation still appears to be "on" for early February (ref. TDXB Issue 66). Much depends on the continuing hostilities in that part of the world and the interrelationships of several countries.

YI1BGD remains silent at this time, and QSL output from previous operating at the club station has fallen off. A recent visitor to the area says the suggestion of a Stateside QSL manager for YI1BGD is out of the question because the powers in Iraq "are afraid the manager might be Jewish."

P.D.R. YEMEN

"Anyone entering South Yemen with radio equipment will be jailed." So says a source in the Middle East. Thus goes 70 for the immediate future.

As for N. Yemen, N2KK's recent talks with authorities there (TDXB Issue 69) dovetailed with attempts by others and the continuing contacts are expected to bear fruit in the form of a 4W operation early in the New Year.

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Montserrat VP2MS Jan. 14-23 is by W7ISX and W7EKM. They will be flying their own plane, equipped with a TS-120 for some operating enroute, and expect to island-hop for about five weeks. Next stop after VP2M is Barbados and 8P6KQ. After that further stops depend on the winds and their frame of mind. QSLs to N7RO.

January *QST* magazine contains the article on last fall's China visit by W6AM, K2PBR, WA2BGE, and W6GC. So we are told; the magazine has not yet arrived here.

600DX cards are now starting to arrive courtesy I2YAE; two callers this week have procured QSLs for contacts back in October.

George Jacobs, W3ASK, has temporarily suspended publication of his *Mail-A-Prop*. He has not missed a bi-weekly issue since starting in 1973, but now pressures of a special engineering project which he has undertaken do not leave time for the work necessary. George hopes to be back at it by early February; if that is not possible, he has begun talks with another person who could assume the duties.

The latest ARRL Director's Letter (Dec. 19) reports that the French society REF "is in deep trouble." Poor management by a previous president resulted in financial woes for REF, and they have asked the IARU for a loan or donation of about a hundred thousand dollars! The request has been denied by IARU officials.

ZL3MA was just heard on 20 Meters stating he plans a ten day operation from Kermadec, commencing Dec. 26, if he can arrange transportation. This does not correlate with our other sources in New Zealand but we are prepared if it happens.

A number of reports continue to surface indicating that the amateur radio publishing industry in general is experiencing hard times. The cut-back up in Greenville at *Ham Radio*

Horizons and *HR Report* were merely indicative of what is happening elsewhere. Ziff-Davis is reported suffering a drop in circulation of nearly all its publications, 73 magazine has lost ground the past year, and the new staff at *CQ* perseveres in their attempts to revive a magazine which had gone stale under the old management.

Even the ARRL, with its virtually captive audience of 150,000 "membersubscribers" is looking for some economic salvation. They have had a few problems of late with the town of Newington's taxman, and their non-profit status does no good when it comes time to print their journal, *QST*. Management at 225 Main Street is reported just about ready to take the plunge into a four-day week, closing the office completely three days a week to conserve energy and save money.

CN8AT reports in from Tangier that he is Hans Dankerl, WB3JRL and formerly DU1AT, and ZB2GF. After SWling there for a year Hans, who is with the U.S. International Communication Agency, finally got a license to transmit. Mainly, it was help from the locals, the Royal Moroccan Radio Amateur Radio Club, that broke the ice. Also involved in the negotiations were Sen. Goldwater, K7UGA, IARU honcho W4KFC, and Ambassador Briss, CN8MC.

Hans uses SSB, CW and RTTY with favorite spots being 14305, 21305 and above 28900. His QSL manager is OE3NH, but Stateside contacts can just use SASE to Hans Dankerl, Tangier-USICA, Dept. of State, Washington DC 20520.

The final episode of *Cosmos*, on public television the Sunday before Christmas, was a memorable wrap-up of the series and highly educational for children especially. Your editor has it on video tape; if you have available a VHS format VCR, 6-hour capability, I would be happy to loan it to you. Needs \$1.58 for First Class postage. Just ask if you'd like to borrow the tape.

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Final J20/A Abu Ail contact total was around 16,000, says Dave Gardner, K6LPL. They made about 800 of those on 80 Meters, with propagation to N. America being tough for their 100 watts. The expedition was generally uneventful until the boat ride back from the lighthouse to Djibouti, which was three days of rough seas and resultant rampant seasickness.

Dave says QSLs from the operation will be going into the mails in about three months; time is required to examine the photos taken, select one, and have full-color cards printed. Those who have the Palmyra and Kingman cards from a year ago will understand that a slight wait will be worth it. Costs of the trip were \$8,000 from Djibouti to Abu Ail and back, alone, not counting airfare from each participant's home country to J28. Those taking part were Dave, K6LPL, J28AZ, DJ9ZB, and TU2IR.

While in Djibouti, Dr. Gardner made 3,000 CW contacts as J28LP, cards for which will be coming out about the same time as the /A ones.

Apologies from the editor for incorrectly referring to the 1A0KM operation as taking place from the "Southern Military Order of Malta." The correct term is Sovereign Military order of Malta. Mario Gallavotti, 1Q0MGM, writes that "Its traditions and history go back hundreds of years. The SMOM is fully independent; it issues stamps, passports, and maintains diplomatic relations, through the exchange of diplomatic representatives, with forty six countries in the world and with many international organizations."

1A0KM will continue active through the efforts of a dozen operators, even once the earthquake traffic has ceased. DXCC status is virtually out of the question for SMOM.

Some have wondered about the identity of 9G1RT/C5AZ, who showed up at VK4NIC/3X to operate the ARRL 10-Meter Contest a couple of weeks ago. Well, he is Rod Hallen, KB7NK, who has authored several works in the computer magazines under the call WA7NEV.

Rod is now with the U.S. State Department in Accra Ghana, to be there through August, 1981. His travels in connection with the assignment are expected to take him to some twenty countries, and he will put as many of them on the air as possible. He will be operating as 5T5RH for several weeks sometime early in the New Year.

Rod is a member of the Desert Rats DX Club of Arizona, and QSL manager for his operations is fellow Rat Bob Clay, KB7HN, 581 Howard Drive, Sierra Vista AZ 85635. But when Rod is operating an already-established station of another ham use the QSL route for that station, not Rod's manager.

The VP8SSI South Sandwich operation we have been listing in the Calendar for several months looks to be a definite Maybe for the first week of January. VP8PP is reported on his way to S. Georgia at this time, and reports say he will operate then from Sandwich through January 5.

YASME adventurers W6KG and W6QL split the Middle East for the Caribbean and are reported now on French St. Martin, signing FG0FOL/FS.

Alan Lefcourt, WB3GPR, now living in Connecticut, will operate from Grand Cayman Dec. 29 to Jan. 4, with emphasis on the Novice and General Class band segments. He says antennas are in place on site for 40-10 Meters, and he will try to get something going on 80. His callsign will probably be either ZF2DZ or ZF2EA. Cards to 10 Jackson Drive, Danbury, CT 06810.

CALENDAR

Kermadec	ZL3MA/K	Rumored (again) Dec. 26-Jan. 5; this issue
St. Lucia	K1CC/J6	Now through Jan. 2
Macao	CR9CT	Ends Dec. 29; Issue 69
Campbell Is.	ZL3AFH/A	On NOW; Issue 69
S. Sudan	N2KK/STØ	Now through Jan. 15; Issue 62 and 69
Lord Howe	VK3DCS	On NOW; Issue 68
Fr. St. Mar.	FGØFOL/FS	By YASME, on NOW; this issue
Gr. Cayman		By WB3GPR, Dec. 29-Jan. 4; this issue
S. Cooks	ZK1VU	On Now; issue 69
Heard		Still hope for February; this issue
S. Sandwich	VP8SSI	Still rumored for Jan. 1-5; Issue 63 and this issue
Guinea	VK4NIC/3X	Back on early January; Issue 69
Lebanon	OD5KK	By N2KK, Jan. 15-Feb. 4; Issues 62 and 69
Mauritania	5T5RH	By 9G1RT/C5AZ, possibly in January; this issue
Somalia	6OØDX	Possible again mid-January; Issue 66
Montserrat	VP2MS	Jan. 14-23 by W7s ISX and EKM; this issue
Iraq	YI1JY	Lookin' good for February; this issue
Cyprus	5B4KK	Feb. 4-11 by N2KK; Issue 62
Kingman/ Palmyra		By VK2BJL and others, April tentative. Issue 63

THANKS TO...

CN8AT, W3ASK, K1KTB, W7EKM, WB3GPR, W1NG, KB7HB, IØMGM, K6KPK, N1ACH, VK9NS, WD9JKT, KB6Q, W1WY (and the many who sent Bandpass...we will be back to "full-size" next issue with your reports).

DJ3TF reports that QSL cards have now been printed for the following operations: Leichtenstein DJ3TF/HBØ (June '80) and Corsica FCØGAJ/FCØFOC (Sept., '80) and will be in the mails immediately.

The radio does the good things which are obvious from looking at the front panel and examining the specifications. It does receive almost everywhere, it is equipped to handle transmitting on the new bands if we ever get them, etc. However...

OH7RF did a survey of Finnish DX needs and rounded up 25 OH-types with enough cards for the Honor Roll, although only seven or eight have made their submissions. Jari figures on a percentage basis, if the U.S. had as many HR qualifiers as Finland, there would be 2,500 Ws on the HR.

1. There is no receiver attenuator
2. CW transceive offset is a mile off
3. CW sidetone is inaudible, almost
4. ALC and relay jacks are (still) on the p.s. instead of on the radio
5. \$40 external speaker is no better than the internal one
6. Volume control will not turn the volume close to all the way down
7. To use Ext. Rvc. Antenna jack you must cut a jumper inside the radio
8. Finally, the RV-7 remote VFO is a joke. It does not have digital readout, the spot signal it sends to the TR-7 is about S4, and, are you ready for this... the SPOT button locks in!!! Plus, you can't run the RV-7 with the TR-7's RIT turned on. And when you depress SPOT, the "live" signal in the TR-7 shifts 300 Hz!

Your editor has had the opportunity to try a Drake TR-7 the past few weeks. In view of the fact that Heathkit is readying a new transceiver to be announced sometime early in 1981, a few comments about the Drake might be in order.